



HOUSE BILL 205: Abuse & Neglect Resources in Public Schools.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Families, Children, and Aging Policy. If favorable, re-refer to Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 11, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. Davis, White, Hastings, Hurley	Prepared by:	Jessica Boney Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 205 would require public schools to provide information and resources on child abuse and neglect to students.*

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would do the following:

- Require the State Board of Education to adopt a policy to provide students in grades six through 12 with age-appropriate information on child abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse.
- Display and provide a document to students with the following information:
 - Warning signs that a child may be the victim of abuse or neglect.
 - Telephone number of local department of social services for reporting abuse or neglect.
 - Statement that reported information is held in strict confidence.
 - Resources available, including anonymous safety tip line application.

Sections 2.(a), 2.(b), and 2.(c) would require charter schools, regional schools, and all public secondary schools under the control of the Board of Governors to implement the State Board of Education's policy on child abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse.

Section 2.(d) would make the local board of education subject to the duty regarding abuse and neglect created by this bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law and would apply beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

BACKGROUND: S.L. 2019-245 required each local board of education to adopt and implement a child sexual abuse and sex trafficking training program for school personnel who work directly with students in grades kindergarten through 12. The training program must provide education and awareness training related but not limited to, best practices from the field of prevention, the grooming process of sexual predators, the warning signs of sexual abuse and sex trafficking, how to intervene when sexual abuse or sex trafficking is suspected or disclosed, legal responsibilities for reporting sexual abuse or sex trafficking, and available resources for assistance.

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